Telephone bills outstanding against V.I.Ps

1441. SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of money is outstanding against V.I.P.'s including former Members of Parliament on account of telephone dues;

(b) if so, what is the name of each such V.I.P. together with the amount outstanding against him or her; and

(c) whether any action has been taken for its recovery and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) There is no category as a V.I.P. subscriber in the records of the Department. Subscribers are mainly classified under the 4 categories viz. Central Government subscribers, State Government subscribers, Defence Subscribers and others. Compared to the total value of bills being issued each year which now exceeds 1000 crores, the total outstanding cannot be considered as large.

(c) The usual procedure prescribed in the departmental rules viz. reminding subscribers on telephone, issuing of registered notices and personal contacts, disconnection of lines and legal action wherever possible are being taken for recovery of dues.

Production of DMT by IPCL

1442. SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the comparative cost of production of DMT per tonne in IPCL which has a new plant and in Bombay Dyeing which has a second hand plant;

(b) what is the break up of the cost in DMT plans in India; and

(c) what are the details of the profits made by IPCL in DMT production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has been asked to conduct a study on the cost of production of DMT by indigenous manufacturers. The data regarding comparative cost, etc. will have to await the completion of the study.

Residual life of DMT Plant

1443. SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any assurance to M|s. Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Company Limited, Bombay to enable it to sell its DMT at a price which can ensure certain return to it on its investment;

(b) what is the residual life of this plant, within which the company will have to recover its investment; and

(c) whether Government propose to assure protection till the costs are covered during the residual life of this second hand plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the Chartered Engineers' certificate the residual life of the DMT plant installed by M|s. Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Company Limited would be more than 10 years provided it is operated and maintained according to the internationally accepted standards and processing and operating instructions provided by the foreign supplier.

(c) The level of protection is determined on merits for the particular industry as a whole. However, the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has been asked to undertake a study regarding the cost of production of DMT by indigenous manufacturers including Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Co. Limited.